

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (New): A video encoding method for performing motion compensation predictive encoding on an input video picture having luminance and two color differences, comprising:

selecting a combination of (A) a reference picture, (B) a weighting factor prepared for each of luminance and two color differences and (C) an offset prepared for each of luminance and two color differences for each to-be-encoded block of the input video picture;

obtaining index information indicating the selected combination;

generating a motion compensated prediction picture every to-be-encoded block by adding the offset to the reference picture multiplied by the weighting factor, according to a motion vector every to-be-encoded block;

generating predictive error signals every to-be-encoded block by calculating an error between the input video picture and the motion compensation prediction picture;

generating quantized orthogonal transformation coefficients every to-be-encoded block by subjecting the prediction error signals to orthogonal transformation and quantization; and

encoding (1) the quantized orthogonal-transformation coefficients, (2) information of the motion vector and (3) the index information.

Claim 28 (New): A video encoding apparatus for performing motion compensated prediction encoding on an input video picture having luminance and two color differences, comprising:

a selector to select a combination of (A) a reference picture, (B) a weighting factor prepared for each luminance and two color differences and (C) an offset prepared for each of luminance and two color differences for each to-be-encoded block of the input video picture;

an index information obtaining unit configured to obtain index information indicating the selected combination;

a first generator to generate a motion compensated prediction picture every to-be-encoded block by adding the offset to the reference picture multiplied by the weighting factor, according to a motion vector every to-be-encoded block;

a second generator to generate prediction error signals every to-be-encoded block by obtaining an error between the input video picture and the motion compensated prediction picture;

a third generator to generate quantized orthogonal transformation coefficients every to-be-encoded block by subjecting the prediction error signals to orthogonal-transformation and quantization; and

an encoder to encode (1) the quantized orthogonal transformation coefficients, (2) information of the motion vector and (3) the index information.